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COMPETITION

 **ORION**

225G4
Competition Amplifier

250G4
Competition Amplifier

275G4
Competition Amplifier

A M P L I F I E R O W N E R S M A N U A L

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your purchase of ORION's HCCA power amplifier. Each HCCA amplifier is designed to be the leader in its class offering the most power, advanced features and extreme ease of use. In high-end sound systems or high SPL systems, the HCCA amplifiers will give you years of trouble-free performance.

- **HCCA 225G4**- 25 watt per channel 2 channel high current amplifier with built-in fully variable high-pass, low-pass or bandpass crossover with INTELLi Q. Equipped with remote gain capability, the **HCCA 225G4** is capable of 3, 2, or 1 channel operation with a maximum power capability of 400 watts into 1 Ω mono.
- **HCCA 250G4**- 50 watt per channel 2 channel high current amplifier with built-in fully variable high-pass, low-pass or bandpass crossover with INTELLi Q. Equipped with remote gain capability, the **HCCA 250G4** is capable of 3, 2, or 1 channel operation with a maximum power capability of 800 watts into 1 Ω mono.
- **HCCA 275G4**- 75 watt per channel 2 channel high current amplifier with built-in fully variable high-pass, low-pass or bandpass crossover with INTELLi Q. Equipped with remote gain capability, the **HCCA 275G4** is capable of 3, 2, or 1 channel operation with a maximum power capability of 1200 watts into 1 Ω mono.

The installation of all ORION components will determine the overall performance result. Improper installation will not only limit the performance of your ORION system but also potentially compromise the reliability of this amplifier. To ensure proper sonic results and component reliability, please refer to your Authorized ORION dealer for installation assistance or advice. If you decide to perform the installation yourself, read the entire installation section of this manual before beginning the installation.

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This manual is designed to answer your questions about this product. In the event you have questions not covered in this manual, please refer questions to your local Authorized ORION Dealer. Additionally, you can call ORION's Technical Support Staff at (480) 705-5600 for assistance.

PRACTICE SAFE SOUND

Continuous exposure to sound pressure levels over 100 dB may cause permanent hearing loss. High powered automotive sound systems can generate sound pressure levels in excess of 130 dB. When playing your system at high levels, please use hearing protection and prevent long term exposure.

RECORD YOUR SERIAL NUMBER AND DATE:

MODEL: _____

SERIAL NUMBER: _____

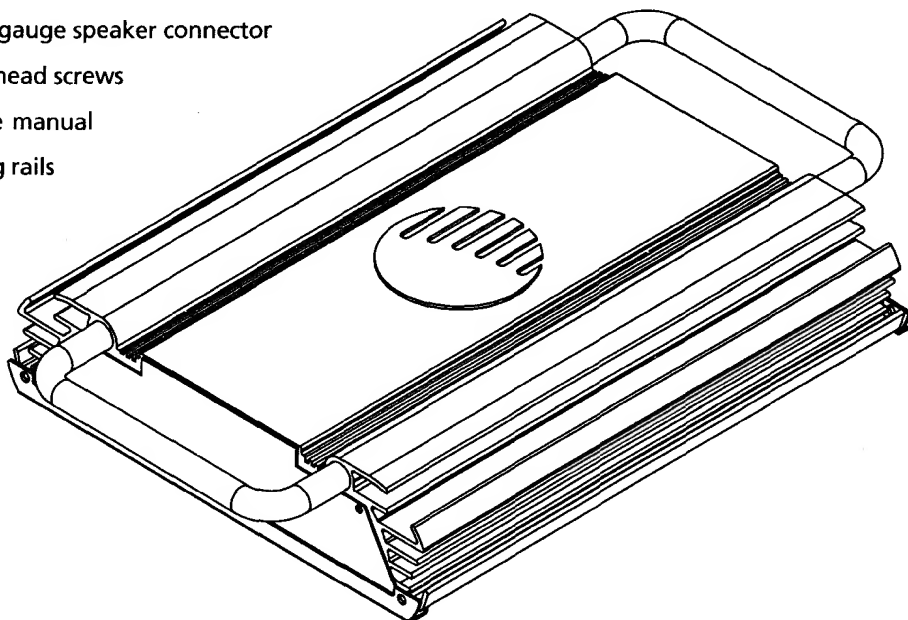
DATE OF PURCHASE: _____

COMPANY PURCHASED FROM: _____

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WHAT'S IN THE BOX

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	HCCA power amplifier
1	2 conductor 4 gauge power connector (2 connectors for the 275G4)
1	5 conductor 12 gauge speaker connector
4	#8 phillips pan head screws
1	HCCA reference manual
2	HCCA Mounting rails



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WARRANTY

ORION Industries Inc. warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship under the following terms:

Parts and Labor are warranted for a period of 3 years IF:

- a. The product is purchased from an Authorized ORION Dealer
- b. The product is installed by an Authorized ORION Dealer

Parts and Labor are warranted for a period of 1 year IF:

- a. The product is purchased from an Authorized ORION Dealer
- b. The product is NOT installed by an Authorized ORION Dealer

Parts and Labor are warranted for a period of 90 days IF:

- a. The product is NOT purchased from an Authorized ORION Dealer

If you are uncertain as to whether your dealer is authorized, please contact ORION at (480) 705-5600. In countries other than the USA or Canada, each distributor warrants the ORION product it sells.

The following conditions and situations are **NOT** covered by this warranty:

Any product on which the serial number has been defaced, modified or removed

Damage or malfunction resulting from:

- a. Accident, misuse, abuse, unauthorized modification or failure to follow the instructions provided with this product.
- b. Repair by anyone NOT authorized by ORION.
- c. Damage due to shipping (these claims must be presented to the freight carrier)
- d. Removal or installation of this product.
- e. Any failure that has NOT been caused by a defect in material or workmanship.

This warranty is in effect for the original purchaser only. ORION will pay for labor and material expense for covered items. ORION does not cover removal or installation charges, payment of shipping charges to ORION, payment of OUT-OF-WARRANTY shipping charges, or damage to other property caused by any defects in this product.

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For all warranty and non-warranty service issues, please refer to your nearest Authorized ORION Dealer for assistance. If you require additional information or assistance regarding service repair issues, please call (480) 705-5600.

Exclusion

1. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied
2. In no event will ORION be liable for any consequential damages resulting from the use of this product or any defect of this product.

This Warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

SAVE YOUR RECEIPT!

SPECIFICATIONS

AMPLIFIER	HCCA 225G4	HCCA 250G4	HCCA 275G4
Power output 4 Ω Stereo (watts)	25 watts	50 watts	75 watts
Power output 2 Ω Stereo (watts) ¹	50 watts	100 watts	150 watts
Power output 1 Ω Stereo (watts) ¹	100 watts	200 watts	300 watts
Power output 0.5 Ω Stereo (watts) ¹	200 watts	400 watts	600 watts
Power output 4 Ω Mono (watts) ¹	100 watts	200 watts	300 watts
Power output 2 Ω Mono (watts) ¹	200 watts	400 watts	600 watts
Power output 1 Ω Mono (watts) ¹	400 watts	800 watts	1200 watts
Distortion all channels driven (from 20Hz to 20kHz)	<0.1% THD	<0.1% THD	<0.1% THD
Frequency Response	20Hz to 20 kHz ± 0.25 dB	20Hz to 20 kHz ± 0.25 dB	20Hz to 20 kHz ± 0.25 dB
Linear Bandwidth	6Hz to 50 kHz ± 3 dB	6Hz to 50 kHz ± 3 dB	6Hz to 50 kHz ± 3 dB
Signal-to-noise ratio full bandwidth @ rated output power	> 100 dB	> 100 dB	> 100 dB
Damping factor @ output connector full bandwidth	>400 at output connector	>400 at output connector	>400 at output connector
Slew Rate	> 30V/ μ s	> 30V/ μ s	> 30V/ μ s

page 6

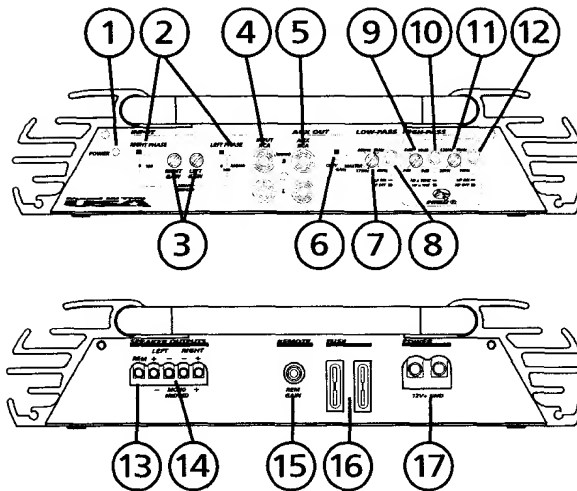
SPECIFICATIONS (CONT.)

input sensitivity ²	200MV to 5Vrms	200MV to 5Vrms	200MV to 5Vrms
input impedance	47kW	47kW	47kW
fuse type	(2) 20 AMP ATC	(2) 30 AMP ATC	(6) 30 AMP ATC
CROSSOVER	HCCA 225G4	HCCA 250G4	HCCA 275G4
low-pass crossover ³	Continuously variable	Continuously variable	Continuously variable
low-pass frequency range	45Hz to 5kHz	45Hz to 5kHz	45Hz to 5kHz
high-pass crossover	Continuously variable	Continuously variable	Continuously variable
high-pass frequency range	10Hz to 1kHz, 100Hz to 10kHz	10Hz to 1kHz, 100Hz to 10kHz	10Hz to 1kHz, 100Hz to 10kHz
INTELLi Q boost range	0dB to 10dB	0dB to 10dB	0dB to 10dB
DIMENSIONS	12" x 10.25" x 2.25" 279mm x 260mm x 57mm (L x W x H)	18" x 10.25" x 2.25" 457mm x 260mm x 57mm (L x W x H)	25" x 10.25" x 2.25" 635mm x 260mm x 57mm (L x W x H)

1. All channels driven, 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz, <0.1% THD, power input voltage at 12.0 VDC.
2. HCCA amplifiers are designed to accept full 9 Volts RMS input when set to the minimum gain position.
3. Crossovers produce a slope rate of 12 dB/Octave and a "Q" of .707

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END PANEL LAYOUT



1. **Power LED**-when lit indicates that the amplifier is on.
2. **Input Configuration Switches**-determine the output configuration of the amplifier (page 9)
3. **Independent Gain Controls**-continuously adjust from 200mV to 5Vrms for full power output (page 10)
4. **RCA inputs**-accepts RCA input from a source unit, preamplifier or equalizer
5. **AUX RCA outputs**-provides easy connection to additional amplifiers (page 11)
6. **AUX RCA output control**-determines the audio signal out the AUX RCAs (page 11)
7. **Low-pass Frequency Control**-adjusts the frequency of the low-pass crossover (page 12)
8. **Low-pass Crossover activation switch**-activates the low-pass crossover (page 12)
9. **INTELLI Q adjust control**-adjusts the "Q" boost of the high-pass crossover (page 16)
10. **High-pass "x10" frequency range switch**- selects the frequency range of the high-pass crossover (page 14)
11. **High-pass frequency control**- adjusts the frequency of the high-pass crossover (page 14)
12. **High-pass Crossover activation switch**- activates the high-pass crossover (page 14)

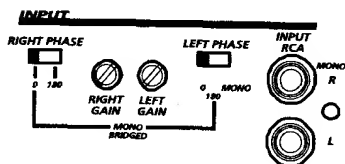
13. **REM Remote turn-on input**-turns on the amplifier when fed 12 V+ (page 21, 23)
14. **Speaker Connections**-allows up to 12 gauge speaker wire.
15. **Remote Gain Control Port**-allows dashboard remote gain control (page 20•2)
16. **Fuses**-Protects the amplifier from over current situations.
17. **Power Connections**-allows up to 4 gauge power and ground cables (page 21, 23)

page 8

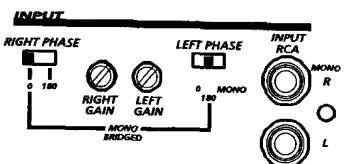
INPUT CONFIGURATION

The input section of the amplifier consists of separate phase switches that set output configuration, separate left and right gain controls and RCA inputs. The input section makes it easy to adapt this amplifier to most system configurations.

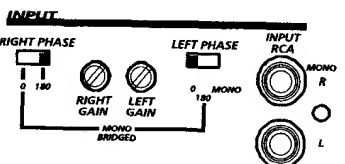
PHASE SWITCHES



The HCCA amplifier has separate left and right phase control switches. There are six different setting combinations. **Setting 1** is the factory configuration. Both left and right channels are in Phase. Both left and right gain controls are active. This setting is used for typical two channel stereo operation (page 25).

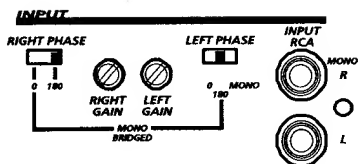


Setting 2 inverts the output of the left channel. The left channel is 180° out of phase from the right channel. Both left and right gain controls are active. When one pair of RCA's are available as the input, this setting is used to sum mono the input for bridging the amplifier to a mono load (page 27). This configuration is also useful for Tri-mode operation (page 31). Additionally, when in stereo mode (page 25), inverting one channel of satellite speakers can focus imaging.

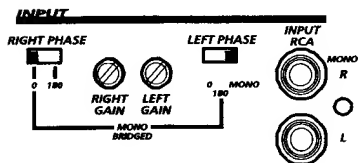


Setting 3 inverts the output of the right channel. The right channel is 180° out of phase from the left channel.

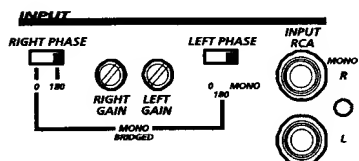
page 9



Setting 4 inverts the output of both the left and right channels. Both left and right gain controls are active. This configuration is useful for inverting one set of speakers like rear speakers in front/rear system to improve staging in a vehicle (page 25).

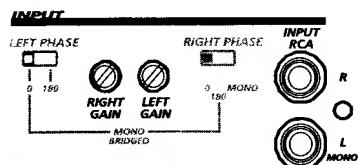


Setting 5 inverts the output of the left channel. The left channel is 180° out of phase from the right channel. Only the right gain control is active. This is the "MONO BRIDGED" output configuration (page 29). This setting is to be used when using a single RCA as a mono input. Right Phase control determines the phase of the output. When the Right Phase control is in the 0° position, the bridged output is in phase with the rest of the system.



Setting 6 inverts the output of the bridged output. The mono bridged input is 180° out of phase from the rest of the system. Only the right gain control is active. This is the "MONO BRIDGED" output configuration (page 29). Right Phase control determines the phase of the output. When the Right Phase control is in the 180° position, the bridged output is out of phase with the rest of the system.

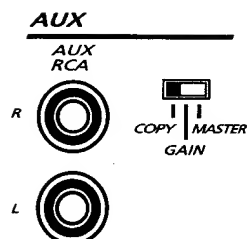
INPUT GAIN



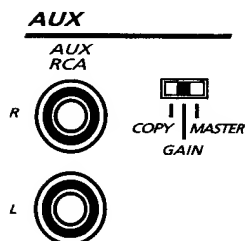
HCCA amplifiers have separate left and right level adjustments. The input sensitivity of these adjustments range from 200mV up to 5Vrms to easily integrate with any source unit both after market and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) Refer to the "Testing the System" (page 38) and the "Adjusting the Sound of the System" (page 39) for detailed instructions on setting the gain.

page 10

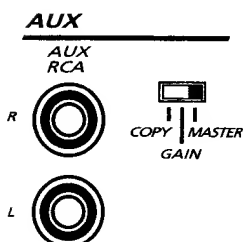
AUXILIARY OUTPUT CONFIGURATION



The auxiliary outputs on ORION amplifiers offer easy, unlimited system expansion. Routing signal from a source unit, pre-amplifier or equalizer is a matter of routing RCAs to the RCA Inputs and out the AUX outputs to the next XTREME or HCCA amplifier in the signal chain. When the switch is in the "COPY" position, the AUX RCAs output is an identical copy of the input signal. The signal passes through a buffer stage so that an infinite number of HCCA amplifiers can be daisy chained without signal loss or overloading of the source unit. This maximizes the signal output and minimizes the potential for system noise.



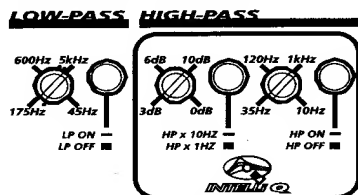
When the switch is in the "GAIN" position, the AUX RCA outputs are buffered through the gain stage of the amplifier. When the first amplifier in the signal chain is set this way, a remote gain controller can be installed in the amplifier and act as a "PRE-AMP" controlling the overall level of the system. Following amplifiers can be configured in either the "COPY" configuration with their gains set to zero as the "GAIN" amp is now controlling the gain level for all subsequent amps. This eliminates the need to "gain match" multiple amplifiers.



When the switch is in the "MASTER" position, the AUX RCA outputs are buffered through the gain stage of the amplifier and filtered through the crossover sections of the amplifier. When set this way, the amplifier's gain and crossover settings are sent to other amplifiers down the signal chain. This can be useful for configuring multiple subwoofer amplifiers easily in a large SPL system. All subsequent amplifiers after the master amp will be in the "COPY" position and have their gains set to zero and all crossovers turned off. The master amplifier will control all the functions of the slave amps via the "MASTER" AUX OUT signal. In addition, one RGC-1 gain module can be used to control the level of an entire sub system by plugging it into the "MASTER" amp

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INTERNAL CROSSOVER CONFIGURATION

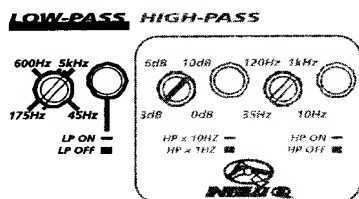


The crossover section of the HCCA amplifier is continuously variable and extremely flexible. There are eight different crossover configurations possible allowing high-pass, low-pass and band-pass configurations. The high-pass crossover utilizes the INTELLI Q feature. This circuit is designed to optimize the performance of ORION subwoofers in all types of enclosures.

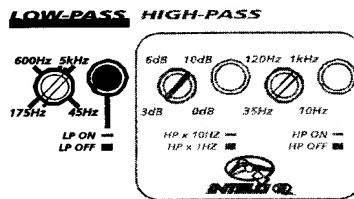
When using ORION loudspeakers, minor deviations from the recommended frequency ranges can provide superior results depending on your speaker locations and your vehicle acoustics. Setting crossover frequencies higher than recommended will not cause damage and may provide superior sonic results depending on your system's performance goals. Refer to your loudspeaker owner's manual for assistance in choosing the proper crossover frequencies for your system.

WARNING!!! DO NOT set crossover frequencies lower than the speakers recommended operating range. This can cause driver failure that is not covered by manufacturer's warranty.

LOW-PASS CROSSOVER



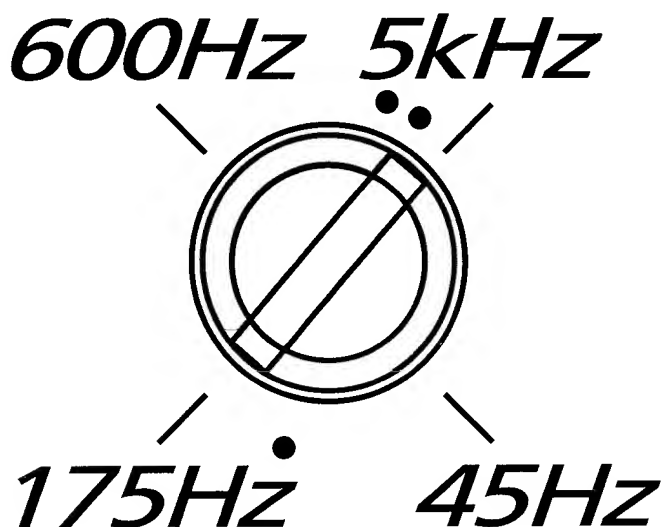
When the push button is in the "out" position, the low-pass crossover is bypassed.



When the push button is in the "in" position, the low-pass crossover is active. The low-pass crossover is continuously variable from 45 Hz to 5 kHz.

page 12

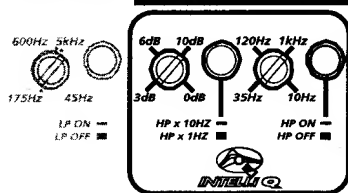
FINE TUNING THE LOW-PASS CROSSOVER



The crossover section is marked at four frequency points for ease of system adjustment. These points are 45 Hz, 175 Hz, 600 Hz and 5,000 Hz. Specific crossover points can be chosen based on the recommended operational bandwidth of your speakers.

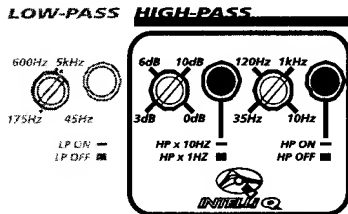
There are three small dots on the frequency range dial. These dots represent commonly used ORION crossover frequencies. These crossover frequencies are 85 Hz, 2,500 Hz and 3,500 Hz respectively.

HIGH-PASS CROSSOVER



When both push buttons are in the "out" position, the high-pass crossover is bypassed.

MID AND TWEETERS

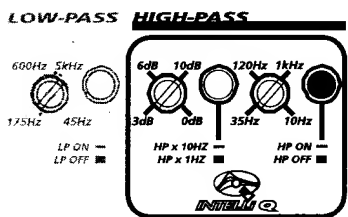


When both push buttons are in the "in" position, the high-pass crossover is active in the "HIGH" frequency range. The high-pass crossover is continuously variable from 100 Hz to 10 kHz. This setting is used for crossing over midrange and tweeter speakers. Set the INTELLi Q level to "0 dB." NOTE: When the high-pass crossover is in the "HIGH" frequency range, the frequency indicators represent 1/10 of the crossover frequency. For example, 35Hz = 350Hz.

WARNING!!!

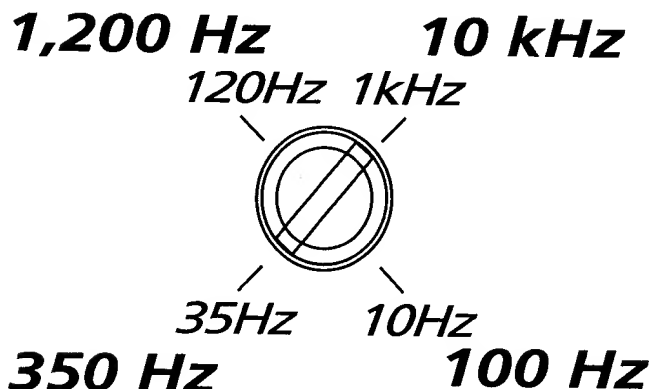
When using the crossover in the "HIGH" range, it is not recommended to use the INTELLi Q as it may potentially damage your midrange or tweeter speakers.

HIGH-PASS WOOFERS



When only the push button to activate the high-pass crossover is in the "in" position, the high-pass crossover is active in the "LOW" frequency range. The high-pass crossover is continuously variable from 10 Hz to 1 kHz. The high-pass crossover is now optimized for use as a subsonic filter for subwoofers. Additionally, boost can be added at the high-pass crossover frequency for improved bass output while still protecting the woofer from excessive excursion. The INTELLi Q adjustment allows up to 10 dB of boost at the selected crossover frequency. Care must be taken when setting the INTELLi Q at or near the maximum boost.

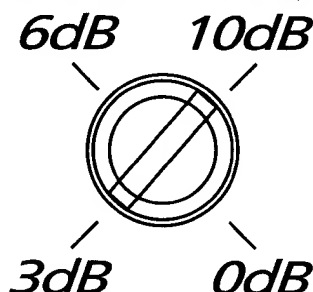
page 14



The crossover section is marked at four frequency points for ease of system adjustment. These points are 10 Hz, 35 Hz, 120 Hz and 1 kHz. Specific crossover points can be chosen based on the recommended operational bandwidth of your speakers.

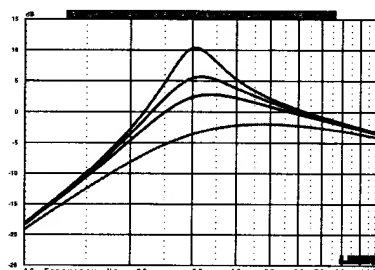
Note: When the high-pass crossover is set in the "HIGH" frequency range, the corner frequencies are 100 Hz, 350 Hz, 1.2 kHz and 10 kHz respectively.

Boost Levels	0dB	+3dB	+6dB	+10dB
Enclosure Type :				
Infinite Baffle	Acceptable, No Problems. Tune above F_s of woofer.	High X-Max Drivers. Tune above F_s of woofer.	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Sealed	Acceptable, No Problems. Tune above F_s of woofer.	Acceptable, No Problems. Tune above F_s of woofer.	High X-Max Drivers. Tune above F_s of woofer.	Not Recommended
Vented	Acceptable, no Problems. Tune to Port frequency.	Acceptable No Problems. Tune to Port frequency.	Acceptable No Problems. Tune to Port frequency.	High X-Max Drivers. Tune to port frequency.
Sealed Bandpass	Acceptable, no Problems. Tune above F_s of woofer.	Acceptable No Problems. Tune above F_s of woofer.	High X-Max Drivers Drivers. Tune above F_s subwoofer.	Not Recommended
Vented Bandpass	Acceptable, no Problems. Tune to port frequency.	Acceptable, no Problems. Tune to port frequency.	Acceptable, no Problems. Tune to port frequency.	High X-Max Driver. Tune to port frequency.
Aperiodic	Set crossover to F_s of woofer.	Set crossover to F_s of woofer.	Set crossover to F_s of woofer.	Not Recommended



Incorporated in the high-pass crossover, INTELLI Q maximizes the performance of a subwoofer. The high-pass subsonic filter removes unwanted bass output from the woofer, increasing the output of a subwoofer by as much as 3 dB due to the increased mechanical power handling. Depending on the enclosure, using INTELLI Q can increase the low frequency response by an additional 10dB!!! The boost level is identified by the corner markings. Acceptable boost levels are determined by the type of enclosure used and the woofer's excursion capability. Listed below are recommended boost levels for different enclosure designs.

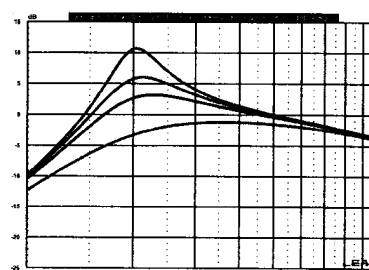
"Q" BOOST FILTER RESPONSE



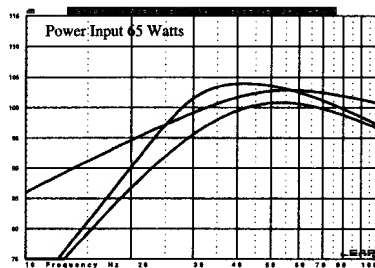
On the left is a frequency response of the high-pass filter set to 30 Hz.

On the right frequency response of the high-pass filter set to 20Hz.

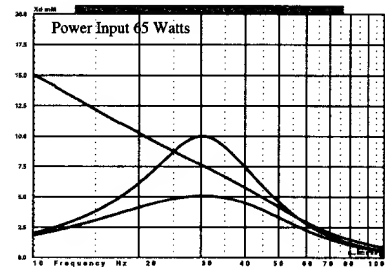
INTELLI Q levels of 0dB, 3dB, 6dB and 10dB are displayed respectively.



INFINITE BAFFLE EXAMPLE HIGH-PASS SET @ 30Hz

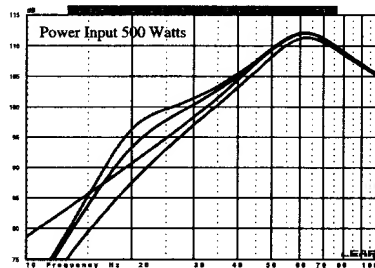


By removing low frequency signal which the woofer cannot produce, the woofer can play its capable range louder. The first example is an infinite baffle situation. The left graph displays the frequency response of a 12 inch woofer in an infinite baffle application without the high-pass filter,

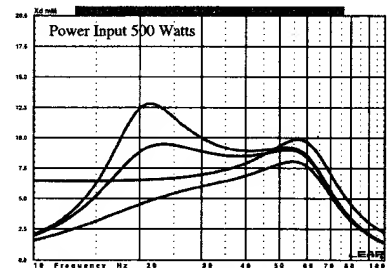


with the filter and with the filter and the INTELLi Q set to +3dB. As you can see, with +3dB of boost and the high-pass filter set to 30Hz, the woofer has more output down to 25Hz and less overall excursion when compared to the non-high-pass response. Maximum physical excursion capability of the woofer is 15mm.

SEALED EXAMPLE HIGH-PASS SET @ 20Hz

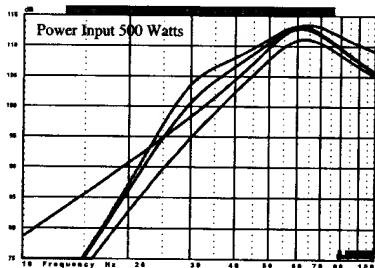


This sealed example is the same 12 inch woofer in the recommended sealed enclosure. Up to 6 dB of boost is capable if 20 Hz was used. With +6dB of boost, the woofer has more output down to 15 Hz.

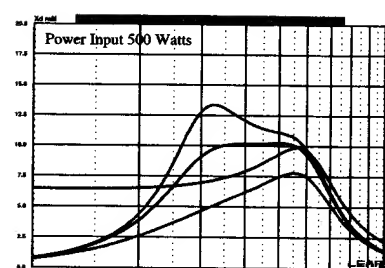


page 18

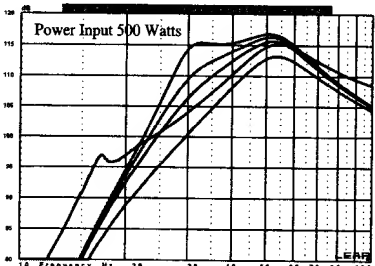
SEALED EXAMPLE HIGH-PASS SET @ 30Hz



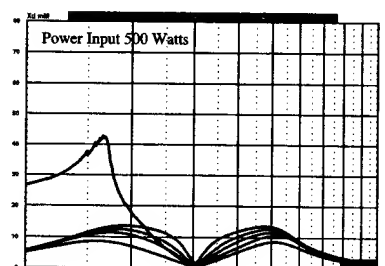
In this example, the frequency has been increased to 30 Hz. Up to 6 dB of boost is capable at this frequency. With +6dB of boost, the woofer has more output down to 23 Hz. Overall usable output is increased.



VENTED EXAMPLE HIGH-PASS SET @ 30Hz



Vented enclosures benefit most from the INTELLi Q. Up to 10 dB of boost is capable at the box tuning frequency of 30 Hz. With +10dB of boost, the woofer has more output down to 22 Hz. The excursion below the tuning frequency has been greatly reduced.



REMOTE GAIN OPERATION

REMOTE



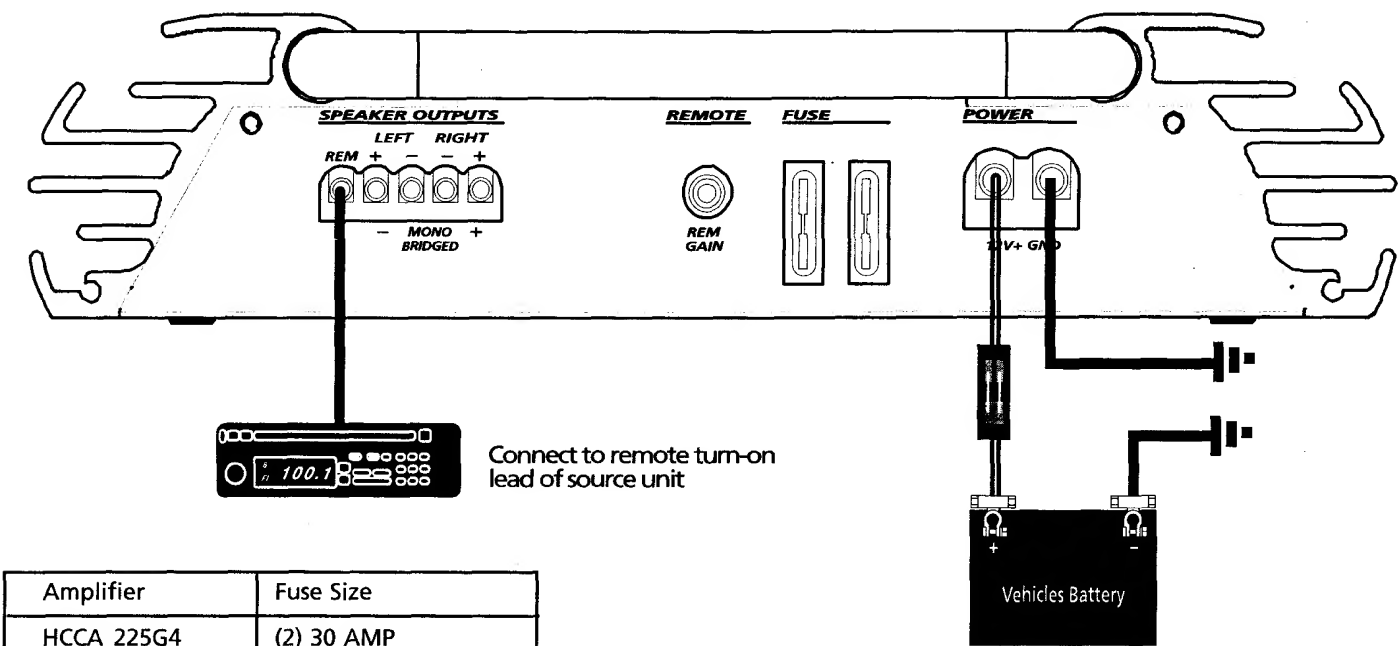
REM
GAIN

The remote gain port provides easy remote access to the internal gain structure of the HCCA power amplifier. The RGC-1 plugs into the amplifier via the 1/8" mini jack plug. The RGC-1 can be installed in the front of the vehicle to control the amplifier gain level. The RGC-1 can be used as a bass level control when used on an amplifier dedicated to subwoofers.

In addition, one RGC-1 can be used on multiple sub amplifiers. Plug the RGC-1 into the first amp which will have its AUX OUT selection switch in the "MASTER" position. The RGC-1 information will now be sent to subsequent amps via the "MASTER" signal. For more information on setting the AUX OUT function see page 13.

page 20

POWER CONNECTIONS HCCA 225G4 AND HCCA 250G4



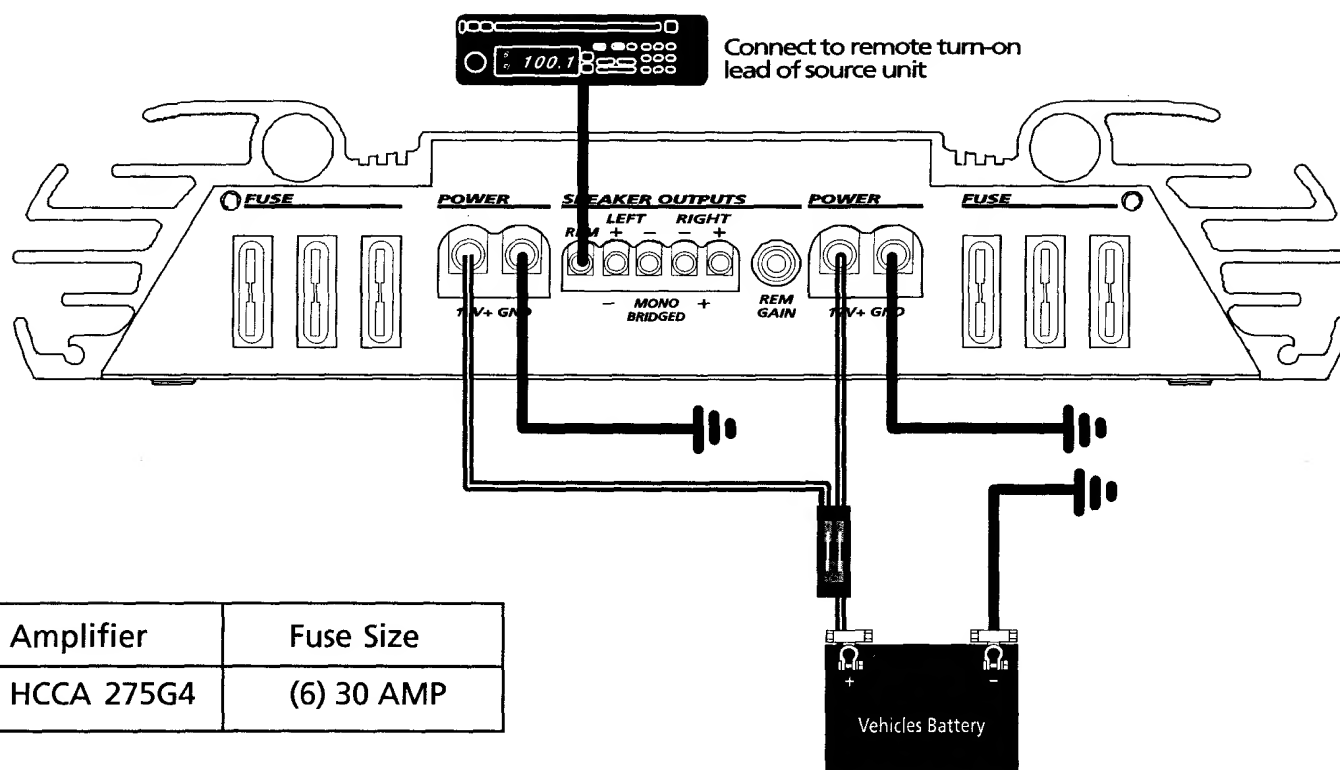
Amplifier	Fuse Size
HCCA 225G4	(2) 30 AMP
HCCA 250G4	(2) 40 AMP

- Power connections made through a large 4 gauge removable terminal connector.
- Minimum 4 gauge power and ground wire recommended for optimal performance.
- Connect 12V+ to the battery through fuse holder. This connection provides +12V main power to the amplifier.
- Power wire must be fused no more than 18" from battery.
- Ground amplifier to a good chassis ground as close as possible to the amplifier.
- Connect REM terminal to remote turn-on lead from source unit. This connection provides +12V power to turn-on the amplifier.
- Add Extra Ground wire between the negative terminal of the battery and the chassis.

NOTE: The addition of a ground wire from the battery to the chassis of the vehicle improves the ability of the battery to supply power to the amplifier. This helps especially in newer vehicles, where the current delivery of the factory electrical system was designed only to accommodate electronics supplied by the auto manufacturer.

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POWER CONNECTIONS HCCA 275G4



page 23

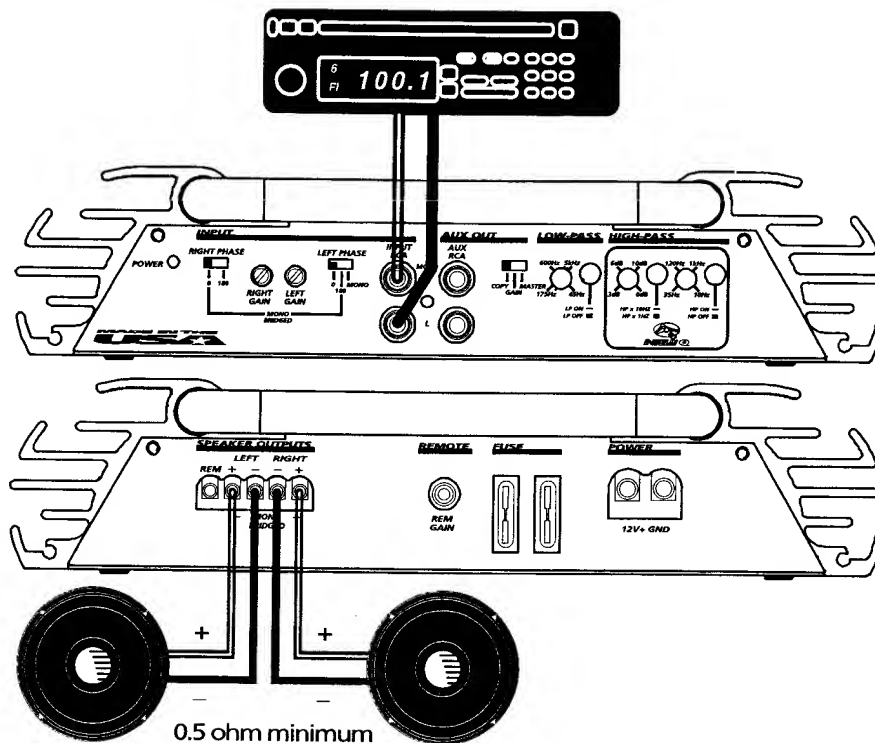
- Power connections made through dual large 4 gauge removable terminal connector.
- Dual 4 gauge power and ground wire required for proper performance.
- Connect 12V+ to the battery through power distribution and fuse holder. This connection provides +12V main power to the amplifier.
- Power wires must be fused no more than 18" from battery.
- Terminate both grounds of the amplifier to a good chassis ground as close as possible to the amplifier.
- Connect REM terminal to remote turn-on lead from source unit. This connection provides +12V power to turn-on the amplifier.
- Add an extra ground wire between the negative terminal of the battery and the chassis. Either dual 4 gauge or single 1/0 gauge.

NOTE: The addition of a ground wire from the battery to the chassis of the vehicle improves the ability of the battery to supply power to the amplifier. This helps especially in newer vehicles, where the current delivery of the factory electrical system was designed only to accommodate electronics supplied by the auto manufacturer.

WARNING: The HCCA 275G4 has two separate 4 gauge power and ground inputs. Both pairs of connections must use 4 gauge power wire for proper operation. Failure to do this may damage the amplifier and is not covered under warranty.

page 24

TWO CHANNEL STEREO CONFIGURATION



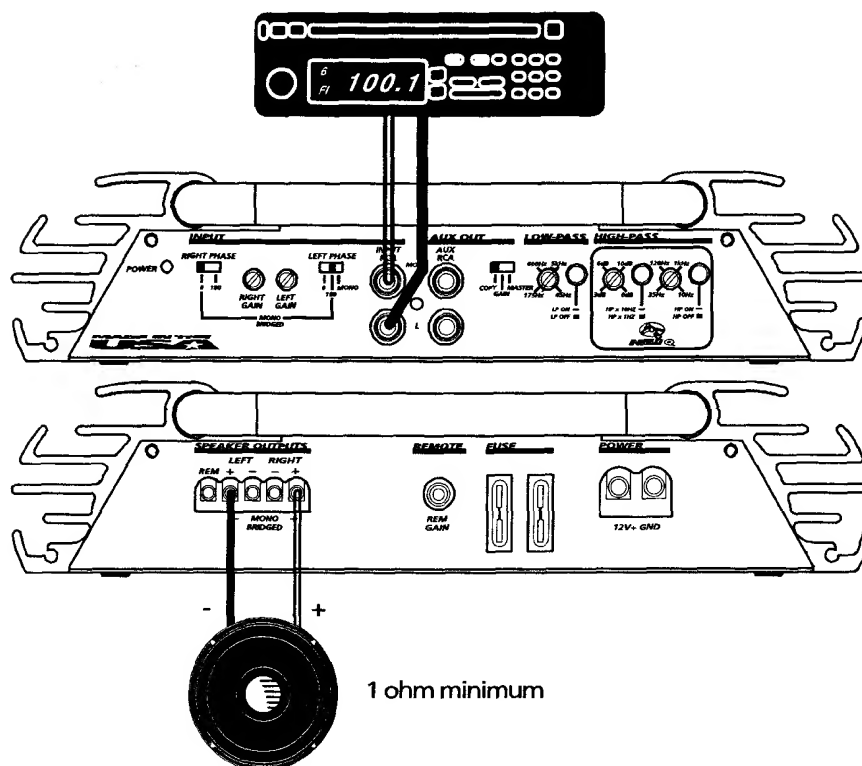
page 25

- Lowest Recommended Impedance is 0.5Ω Stereo
- RCA inputs are connected to both left and right channels
- Left Phase switch set to 0° (page 11)
- Right Phase switch set to 0° (page 11)
- Gain controls can be set together or independently of each other
- Output can be configured for high-pass, low-pass, band-pass or full range operation (page 14)
- Output is configured for stereo operation

TUNING NOTE: The phase switches can be individually switched for improved sound quality. Try different phase switch positions for best sonic results. The high-pass crossover can be used as a subsonic filter with INTELLi Q (page 18). Configure the high-pass crossover for "LOW" frequency range operation and set according to instructions explained in the High-pass Crossover Configuration section in this manual (page 16).

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SUMMED BRIDGED CONFIGURATION



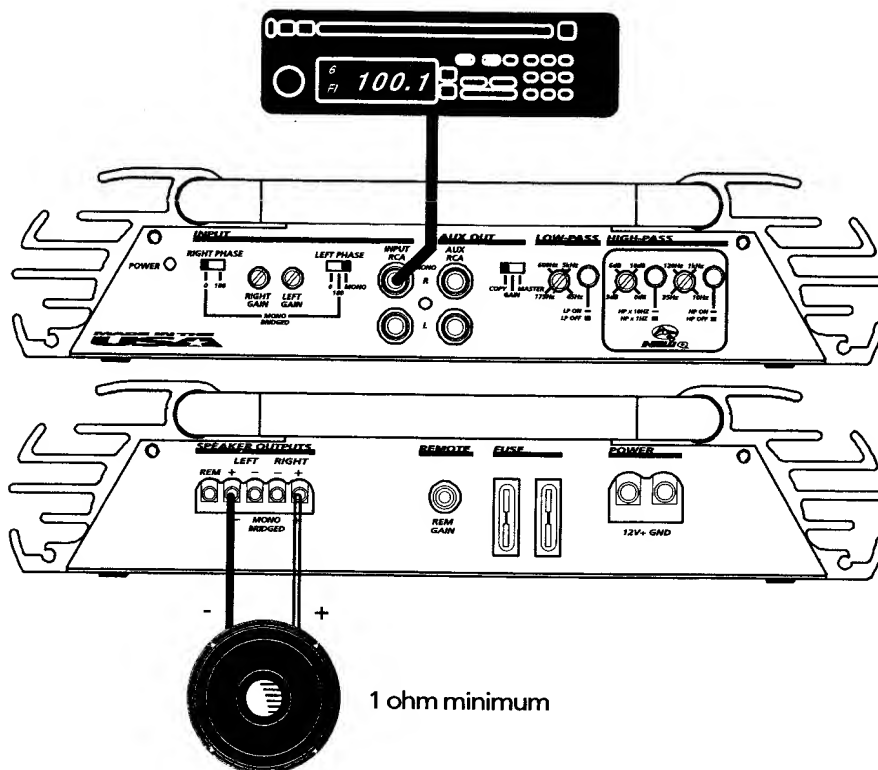
page 27

- Lowest Recommended Impedance is 1Ω bridged mono
- RCA inputs are connected to both left and right channels
- Right Phase switch set to 0° (page 9)
- Left Phase switch set to 180° (page 9)
- Gain controls must be set identically for both left and right channels
- Output can be configured for high-pass, low-pass, band-pass or full range operation
- Output is configured summed bridged which is ideal for subwoofer applications

TUNING NOTE: The phase switches can be individually switched for improved sound quality. In the summed bridged configuration the left and the right phase must be set opposite from each other in order to operate correctly. The high-pass crossover can be used as a subsonic filter with INTELLI Q (page 18). Configure the high-pass crossover for "LOW" frequency range operation and set according to instructions explained in the "High-pass Crossover Configuration" section in this manual (page 16).

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SINGLE CHANNEL BRIDGED CONFIGURATIONS



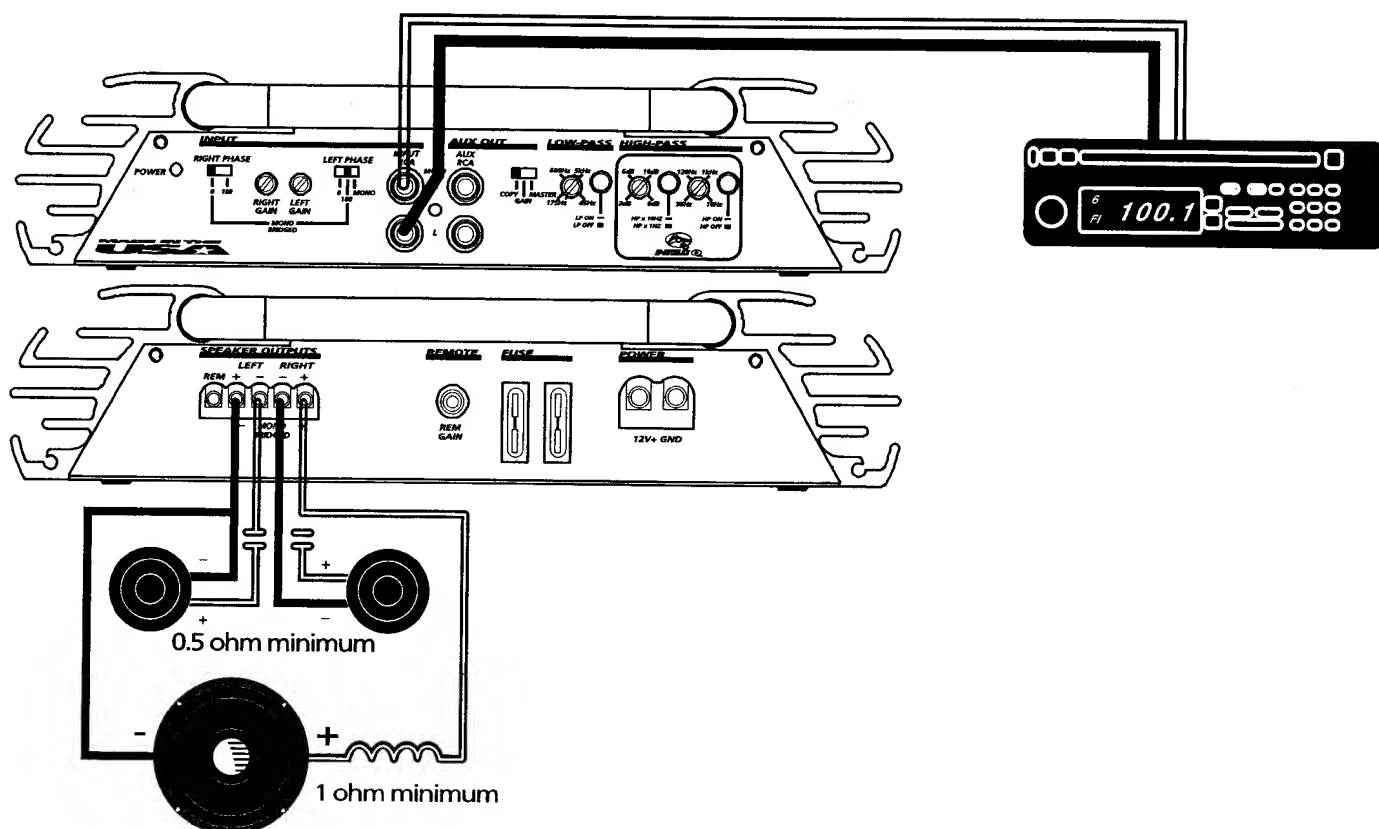
page 29

- Lowest Recommended Impedance is 1Ω bridged mono
- Only the Right RCA input is used
- Right Phase switch set to 0° (page 12)
- Left Phase switch set to "MONO BRIDGED" (page 12)
- Right Gain control sets the level for the amplifier output
- Output can be configured for high-pass, low-pass, band-pass or full range operation (page 14)
- Output is configured mono bridged which is ideal for separate left or right channel subwoofer applications

TUNING NOTE: In the "MONO BRIDGED" configuration, the Right Phase control can be used to change the phase of the amplifier output. The right phase switches can be individually switched for improved sound quality. Try different phase switch positions for best sonic results. The high-pass crossover can be used as a subsonic filter with INTELLi Q (page 18). Configure the high-pass crossover for "LOW" frequency range operation and set according to instructions explained in the "High-pass Crossover Configuration" section in this manual (page 16).

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TRI-MODE THREE CHANNEL CONFIGURATION



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- Lowest Recommended Impedance is 0.5Ω stereo and 1Ω bridged mono
- RCA inputs are connected to both left and right channels
- Right Phase switch set to 0° (page 12)
- Left Phase switch is set to 180°, Speaker polarity on the right front speaker must be inverted to maintain proper speaker polarity (page 9)
- Gain controls must be set identically for both left and right channels
- Output must be configured for full range operation
- Passive crossover frequencies must not overlap.

WARNING: Failure to do so may result in damage to the amplifier.

- Output is configured summed bridged, which is ideal for single subwoofer applications

TUNING NOTE: The phase switches can be individually switched for improved sound quality. In the Tri-mode configuration the left and the right phase must be set opposite from each other in order to operate correctly (page 12). The high-pass crossover can be used as a subsonic filter with INTELLi Q (page 18). Configure the high-pass crossover for "LOW" frequency range operation and set according to instructions explained in the "High-pass Crossover Configuration" section in this manual (page 16).

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INSTALLATION TIPS

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Listed are the majority of the tools required to perform the installation. Having the proper tools will make the installation that much easier. Some of these tools are necessities. Some make the job much easier.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • marking pen | • heat shrink tubing |
| • electric drill with assorted drill bits | • nylon tie straps |
| • utility knife | • volt-ohm meter (optional) |
| • Phillips and flat blade screw drivers | • wire cutters |
| • pliers (standard and needle nose) | • wire crimpers |
| • wire brush or sandpaper for chassis grounding | • wire strippers |
| • solder iron and solder | • RTA (real time analyzer) |
| • grommets | • Reference CD with 1 kHz Sine Wave at 0dB level (all bits high) |

MOUNTING THE HCCA AMPLIFIER

The HCCAG4 amplifiers have a unique mounting system that can be configured for different install situations. By placing the removable mounting rails in the "in" or "out" positions the look of the amplifier mounting can be changed to suit personal tastes or installation requirements. In the "in" position, you will not see the amplifier mounting screws and the amp will "float" above the mounting screws. The amp can also be mounted in a "standard" manner using the "out" position.

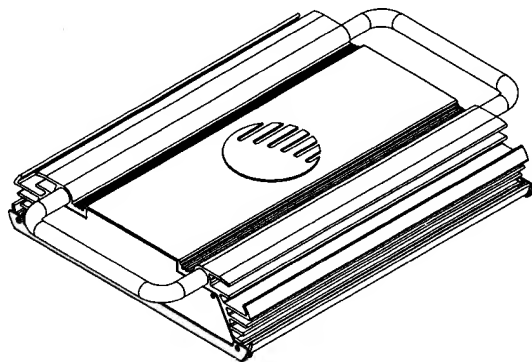


FIGURE A

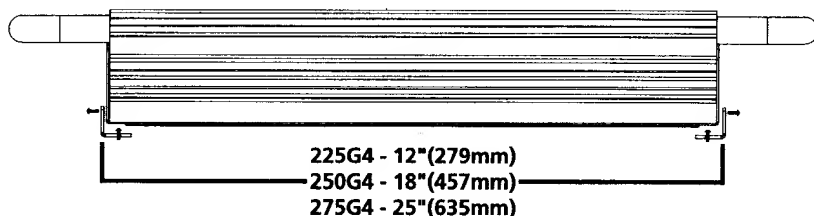


FIGURE A: This figure shows the mounting feet of the amplifier in the "in" position. To mount the amplifier in this manner you must mount just the two feet to the mounting surface before screwing them to the amp. The distance needed between the vertical sides of each foot is noted in the figure to the left. Simply measure the distance, mount the feet, then mount the amplifier to the feet.

FIGURE B

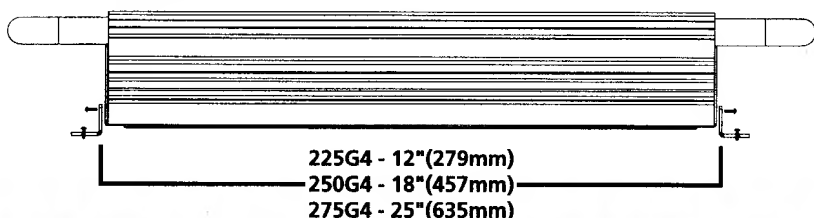
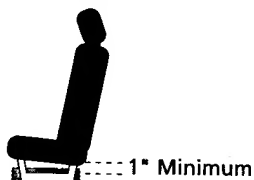


FIGURE B: This figure shows the mounting feet in the "out" position. This method can be accomplished by using the same procedure as above or by simply mounting the feet to the amplifier and mounting the amplifier to the surface as you would a "normal" amp.

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CHOOSING MOUNTING LOCATIONS

The location of your HCCA amplifier will depend on several important issues. Due to the low profile size of the HCCA amplifiers, there are many possible installation locations that will yield satisfactory amplifier performance. Always mount the amplifier in a place that protects the amplifier from the elements. In addition, mount the amplifier on a stable, flat mounting surface. As with any amplifier, there are several possible mounting locations and configurations that can be optimal. We will cover the most obvious of situations.



PASSENGER COMPARTMENT MOUNTING

If you are going to mount the amplifier in the passenger compartment, make sure you have adequate room for ventilation. The HCCA amplifiers have been designed to make possible under seat mounting. When mounting your amplifier under a seat or similar area, keep a minimum of 1" of clearance around the amplifier for adequate cooling.



TRUNK COMPARTMENT MOUNTING

Mounting the HCCA amplifier in the trunk provides excellent performance as long as you do not mount the amplifier upside down or restrict the airflow around the heatsink of the amplifier. For optimal results, mount the amplifier with the cooling fins in the vertical position. This type of mounting will yield the best cooling due to the convection effect of the amplifier chassis.



ENGINE COMPARTMENT MOUNTING

Do not mount the HCCA amplifier in the engine compartment. The amplifier was not designed to endure the harsh environment of the exterior elements.

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GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AND INSTALLATION TIPS

Caution: Be careful not to cut or drill into gas tanks, fuel lines, brake lines, hydraulic lines, vacuum lines, or electrical wiring when working on your vehicle.

Disconnect the vehicle's ground wire at the battery before making or breaking connections to the audio system's power supply terminals.

Do not use the HCCA amplifier unmounted. Failing to securely mount the amplifier can result in damage or injury, particularly in the event of an accident. An unmounted amplifier acts like a heat-seeking missile in the event of a crash. Never mount a HCCA amplifier where it might get wet. Mount the HCCA amplifier so the wire connections will not be pulled. Route the wires where they will not be scraped, pinched or damaged in any fashion.

The +12V power supply wire must be fused as close as possible to the battery terminal, ideally within 18". Use the recommended fuse size or circuit breaker listed in the POWER CONNECTIONS section of this manual.

If you need to replace the fuse plugged into the side of the HCCA amplifier, replace the fuse with the same size ATC type fuse that came with the amplifier. If you are not sure as to the correct value, refer to the POWER CONNECTIONS section of this manual for details. Using a higher current fuse may result in damage to the HCCA amplifier which is not covered under warranty.

NOTE: Make sure all the equipment in the system is turned off when making or breaking connections to the HCCA input RCAs or speaker terminals. Turn on the system and slowly turn up the volume control only after double checking all wire connections.

Power for systems with a single HCCA amplifier can be supplied by most any automotive electrical system. Systems with multiple amplifiers may require a higher capacity battery, alternator or the use of a storage capacitor. We strongly recommend the use of both a transient storage capacitor and a MBR70 with an extra battery in larger stereo systems.

HCCA amplifiers generate a certain amount of heat as part of their normal operation. Be sure the area around the cooling fins is unobstructed to allow adequate air circulation. Remember, beach blankets, last week's laundry, school books and homework papers located on top of the amplifier does not improve air flow.

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STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION

- Step 1 Determine the location for the amplifier. Refer to the Mounting Locations section in this manual for detailed information.
- Step 2 Decide on the system configuration for your amplifier. For system suggestions, refer to the System Planning section of this manual.
- Step 3 Run all the wires from the amplifier location to the speakers, source unit and battery. Do not connect the battery at this time. Be sure to run RCAs, power and speaker wires away from factory electrical wires and system as they pose a great potential for induced system noise.
- Step 4 Pre-drill amplifier mounting holes. Be sure to "think before you drill". Gas tanks, fuel lines, and other obstructions have a nasty way of hiding themselves. For best results use a marking pen to mark the mounting holes and pre-drill these holes with a standard 1/8" drill bit.
- Step 5 Mount the amplifier. Make sure the amplifier is mounted on a flat surface. If this is not possible, do not over tighten the screws such that the chassis of the amplifier is twisted or bent.
- Step 6 Turn the vehicle's key switch to the off position.
- Step 7 Disconnect the vehicle's battery ground terminal.
- Step 8 Connect the RCA and speaker wires to the amplifier. Check the quality of your speakers and signal connections. This will determine the ultimate performance of your ORION amplifier. Refer to the Installation Quick Reference section of this manual for correct wiring instructions.
- Step 9 Connect power wires to the amplifier. At this time do not connect the fuse at the main battery.
- Step 10 Reconnect the ground terminal to the battery.
- Step 11 Set crossover and signal routing configurations. Refer to the "Input Configurations" and the "Internal Crossover Configuration" sections of this manual for detailed instructions.
- Step 12 Once satisfied that all connections and settings are correct, install fuse at location near the vehicle's battery and proceed to the "Testing the System" section of this manual.

WARNING!!!! Never exceed the recommended fuse size of this amplifier. Failure to do so will result in voiding of your warranty.

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TESTING THE SYSTEM

After you have completed the installation, you need to test the system. This will help ensure years of trouble free operation. Please refer to the listed steps below when testing the sound of your ORION HCCA system.

- Step 1 Check all the wiring connections to be sure they are correct and secure.
- Step 2 Turn the signal source volume control down all the way. Set any tone controls to their flat or defeated positions. This includes the loudness control.
- Step 3 Turn the level controls of the amplifier to their minimum positions.
- Step 4 Turn the source unit on. Check to see if the remote power LED located on the connection side of the amplifier is on. If not, please refer to the "Power Connections" section and the "Trouble Shooting" section of this manual for instructions.
- Step 5 If using an aftermarket source unit, turn the level controls of the amplifier about one quarter of a turn. Slowly increase the volume level of the source unit to so that you can hear the output of the system. If no sound is heard or if the output is distorted, turn the system off immediately. Refer to the "Power Connections" section and the "Trouble shooting" section of this manual to solve your installation problems.
- Step 6 Check to make sure the output for each channel is correct. If the active crossovers are used, check to make sure that each output is correct from the amplifier. When using active crossovers on midrange and tweeters, do not use crossover frequencies lower than recommended. If the system is not configured properly, refer to the internal crossover section of this manual and take corrective action.
- Step 7 If the output is clear and undistorted, continue to the "Adjusting the Sound of the System" section of this manual.

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ADJUSTING THE SOUND OF THE SYSTEM

Once you have checked the system's operation, adjust the sound of the system. Adjusting the sound of the system is accomplished by setting the level controls and adjusting the internal crossovers.

- Step 1 Turn the signal source volume control down all the way. Set any tone controls to their flat or defeated positions. This includes the loudness control.
- Step 2 Turn the level controls of the amplifier to their minimum positions.
- Step 3 Choose music with high dynamic content that you like, that you are familiar with and will be most often used in the system.
- Step 4 Turn the unit up to its highest undistorted output level. If you lack test equipment, this point occurs between 3/4 to full volume depending on the quality of your source unit. Listen for any audible distortion. If any distortion is audible, reduce the volume of the source unit until you have an undistorted output. Leave the volume control at this position during your system tuning.
- Step 5 While listening to your chosen dynamic music, turn up the level control corresponding to the midrange output until you hear slight distortion and turn back the level control slightly for an undistorted output. Depending on your system, the midrange and tweeter output may be on the same output channels.
- Step 6 Turn up the level control corresponding to the tweeter output until you hear slight distortion and turn back the level control slightly for an undistorted output. Depending on your system the midrange and tweeter output may be on the same output channels.
- Step 7 Fine tune the crossover setting and output level between the midrange and tweeters. Refer to the "Internal Crossover Configuration" section of this manual for detailed instructions.
- Step 8 Repeat Steps 5-7 for the rear speakers. If you do not have rear speakers continue to Step 10.

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ADJUSTING THE SOUND OF THE SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

- Step 9 Set levels between the midrange and tweeters for optimum front/rear balance.
- Step 10 Turn up the level control corresponding to the woofer output until you hear slight distortion and turn back the level control slightly for an undistorted output.
- Step 11 Fine tune the crossover setting and output levels between satellite speakers and the woofers. Refer to the internal crossover configuration section of this manual for detailed instructions. If using an RGC-1, adjust the level to match the output of the woofer to match the sonic requirements of the system.
- Step 12 Enjoy your ass kickin' ORION sound system.

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TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

SYMPTOM	PROBABLE CAUSE	ACTION TO TAKE
No output	Low or no remote turn-on voltage	Check remote turn-on voltage at amplifier and repair as needed.
	Fuse blown	Check power wire integrity and check for speaker shorts. Fix as needed and replace fuse.
	Power wires not connected	Check power wire and ground connections and repair or replace as needed.
	Audio input not connected	Check RCA connections and repair or replace as needed.
	Speaker wires not connected	Check speaker wires and prepair or replace as needed.
	Speakers are blown	Check system with known working speaker and repair or replace speakers as needed.
Audio cycles on and off	Thermal protection engages when amplifier heatsink temperature exceeds 90°C (190°F)	Make sure there is proper ventilation for amplifier and improve ventilation as needed.
	Loose or poor audio input	Check RCA connections and reapiir or replace as needed.
	Loose power connections	Check power wire and ground connections and repair or replace as needed.
Distorted output	Amplifier level sensitivity set too high exceeding maximum capability of amplifier	Readjust gain. Refer to Adjusting the Sound of the System section of this manual for detailed instructions.
	Impedance load to amplifier too low	Check speaker impedance load, if below .5Ω stereo or 1Ω mono. rewire speakers to achieve a higher impedance.
	Shorted speaker wires	Check speaker wire connections and fix or replace as needed.
	Speaker not connected to amplifier properly	Check speaker wiring and reapiir or replace as needed. Refer to the Speaker Connections section of this manual for detailed instructions.

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Distorted output	Internal crossover not set properly for speakers	Readjust crossovers. Refer to the Internal Crossover section of this manual for detailed instructions.
	Speakers are blown	Check system with known working speakers and fix or replace as needed.
Poor bass response	Speakers wired with wrong polarity causing cancellation at low frequency	Check speaker polarity and fix as needed.
	Crossover set incorrectly	Reset crossovers. Refer to the Internal Crossover Configuration section of this manual for detailed instructions.
	Impedance load at amplifier is too low	Check speaker impedance load, if below .5 Ohms stereo or 1 Ohms mono rewire speakers to achieve a higher impedance.
Battery fuse blowing	Short in power wire or incorrect wiring	Check power and ground connections and replace or repair as needed.
	Fuse used is smaller than recommended	Replace with proper fuse size.
	Too much current being drawn	Check speaker impedance load. If below .5 Ohms stereo or 1 Ohms mono rewire speakers to achieve a higher impedance. Check power and ground connections and replace or repair as needed.
Amplifier fuse	Too much current being drawn	Check speaker impedance load. If below .5 Ohms stereo or 1 Ohms mono, rewire speakers to achieve a higher impedance and replace with recommended size fuse.
		Check power and ground connections and fix or repair as needed.
	Fuse used is smaller than recommended	Replace with proper fuse size.
	Impedance load at amplifier too low	Check speaker impedance load. If below .5Ω stereo or 1Ω mono, rewire speakers to achieve a higher impedance.
	Speaker is blown with shorted outputs	Check system with known working speakers and fix or replace as needed

AUTOSOUND 2000 TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

QUICK CHECK FOR TROUBLESHOOTING CAR AUDIO SYSTEMS

Preface:

All audio systems exhibit noise; however, if the level of noise is low enough, and the signal level high enough, noise should not be a problem. This means that it is very important that the signal level throughout the system be optimized BEFORE dealing with your noise problem. Using a scope (or a small portable amplifier) and Track 99 (1kHz at all high bits) of Autosound 2000's CD #101, or tracks 24 through 29 of Autosound 2000's CD #102, adjust the system so that when the maximum usable signal level of the deck is fed into the system, all the preamp level components clip at the same time. However, we recommend up to as much as a 3:1 voltage overlap with the power amplifiers; i.e. an amplifier with a 2 volt minimum sensitivity can be driven by up to 6 volts of signal.

Noise Overview:

Car audio electrical accessories are notorious for interfering with car audio systems. The interference commonly arises from three areas:

- 1) Power line noise (5%), which can be attenuated with in-line noise filters,
- 2) Inadequate power supply isolation (45%), which can be cured with transformer signal coupling, additional isolated power supplies, or changing out components, or
- 3) Inductive interference (45%) - Including loop area inductive noise picked up by the signal cables - which can be remedied by relocating or rewiring components, rerouting signal cables, or using twisted cable or balanced transmission systems.

AUTOSOUND 2000 1-2-3 METHOD OF LOGICAL TROUBLESHOOTING

I. **MUTE THE AMP(S).** Insert a muting plug (shorted male RCA connector) into each amplifier channel. Turn up the amp sensitivity. Start the car and turn on the headlights, air conditioning, brake lights, etc. Listen for noise in each speaker. Be very picky here!

- A. If still noisy, substitute a small test speaker with short leads for the speakers, crossovers, and speaker leads in the car. If still noisy, substitute an isolated power supply (120 VAC to 13.8 VDC bench supply or a small motorcycle battery) for the car's alternator. If the amplifier is noisy with the test speaker, you have a BAD amp. Send it in. It really doesn't matter if it is quiet or noisy while running on the isolated supply because you have a BAD amp. Send it in for repair and if it was quiet on the isolated supply, indicate so on the repair tag.

- B. If your muted amp is quiet, you've just joined 99.5% of car audio. Amps are usually very clean and do NOT pick up unwanted noise! Continue on to Step II.
- II. **DECK TO AMP.** Using a new set of signal cables, connect one channel from the output of the deck directly into one channel of your clean amp. Run the cables outside the car and as far away as possible from the metal of the car. (For noise purposes, consider a 2" thick cushion of electromagnetic energy emanating from every metal surface in the car.)
- A. If still noisy, congratulations, in all probability your equalizer, electronic crossover, DSP whatchamacallit, are just fine. This means that you can't get your deck playing quiet with your amp, right? go to Step III.
- B. If all is quiet, congratulations, in all probability your deck and amplifier(s) are fine - you obviously have a problem with your equalizer, electronic crossover, DSP, etc. Skip on down to "Time for the Processors."
- III. **MOVE THE DECK.** If you're at this step, it is time to turn your system into an "amplified deck" by temporarily relocating the deck right ON-TOP of the clean amplifier. Then using very, very short signal cables, connect the output of the deck into the input of the amp and test for noise. Play a zero bit track - silence - and make sure all is completely quiet.
- A. If still noisy, you're in a heap of trouble. We suggest that you try another deck and give us a call so that we can put your name into the record books. It's a bad car audio day for you.
- B. If the deck is quiet, then congratulations, you're on your way to a successful installation. It is now time to slowly, methodically, re install the deck back into its final position. Test for noise each step of the way. If the noise returns, suspect the signal cables, forget shielding because it will have only a very, minimal effect within the audio band. We highly suggest using twisted pair cables or a balanced transmission system for cable induced noise.

TIME FOR PROCESSORS:

By the end of step III, you should have the deck playing quietly with the amp, with the quiet cables quietly routed. So it's time to add the signal processors - one at a time - back into the system. Simply repeat steps II and III with the equalizer, then the electronic crossover, etc. However, before **MOVING-THE-SIGNAL-PROCESSORS** to the amplifier, we highly suggest that you supply power to the noisy processor from an isolated power supply rather than the car's +12 volt DC and chassis ground. Make sure to also connect the turn-on lead to the isolated power supply. If the processor is now quiet, then it is highly probable that the component has inadequate isolation. Solutions include, changing components or permanently adding an external isolated power supply (Call Autosound 2000 at 209-465-3450 for info on isolated power supplies).

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SUMMATION:

During the design stage of your vehicle, try to avoid using extra batteries and high output alternators. Extra batteries are nothing but loads as soon as the engine is started and high output alternators usually make more noise than stock alternators. Also, extra batteries installed in the trunk of a car will **ALWAYS** force extra ripple current to flow over the car.

Install Transient Storage as close to the power supply input of your amplifier as possible. The big caps will feed the switching power supplies of your amps and minimize the inductive losses in your power wiring. Plus, they will help your peak system response.

In problem cases, we highly recommend the use of twisted pair cable rather than coaxial cable for RCA leads. This practice will greatly minimize cable induced noise - especially in four channel amps!

Don't forget that your system is only as good as its worst component. Do **NOT** use components with inadequate power supply isolation or you will be asking for problems.

The best electrical ground on a car is the **CHASSIS** of the car. Do **NOT** run ground leads up to the case of the alternator or the negative battery post. Keep ALL ground leads as short as possible.

With properly isolated components, it does **NOT** matter where the component is grounded. With inadequately isolated components, it matters! With poorly isolated components, different grounds can cause different noises.

The deck is the signal reference ground for the entire sound system. The deck usually has **THREE** connections to the car's chassis: The black ground lead, the base of the antenna, and the metal-to-metal bond between the case of the deck and the chassis of the car. With three grounds, there is usually **NO** cause to worry about the ground of a deck.

Amplifiers are usually designed with adequate power supply isolation. This means that it should not matter where a deck is grounded. (Decks are grounded three times and amps float. This is car audio!)

The more components installed on a signal path, the more chances for noise to enter a system. The more electrical accessories on a car, the more noise will be produced by the alternator.

This information was compiled from more than 20 years of working in car audio. If you would like more information on this topic, or any other technical aspect of car audio, please call 209-465-3450 and ask for a subscription to Autosound 2000 Tech Briefs - the monthly magazine for the technically inclined.